

Unpublished translation of 2 ren'ga / renga

Momo sumomo-no maki

Kono hotori

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Groningen, The Netherlands, around 1986

haiku isaacson haikai hokku renga

桃李の巻

Momo-sumomo-no maki - 1780

Peach-damson plum volume

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牡丹散て 打かきなりぬ 二三片

1. Botan' tiri-te / uti-kasanari-nu / ni-san' ben'
The peony scattering, / they piled one on another, /
two-three petals

Buson'

卯月廿日の あり明の影

2. U-duki hatuka-no / ariake-no kage
Fourth month 20th day's / dawn moonlight

Kitoo

すはふきて 翁や門をひらくらむ

3. Suwabuki-te / okina-ya kado-wo / hirakuran'
With a cough, / the Old Man, the gate / is he about to open

Kitoo

聲のえらひに 来つるへんくゝ魚

4. muko-no erabi-ni / ki-turu hen'gue
to choose a bridegroom / has come an apparition

Buson'

年ふりし 街の榎斧入て

5. tosi huri-si / timata-no enoki / ono ire-te
the years -old / crossroad's nettle tree, / an axe thrust in

Buson'

百里の 陸地 とまりさたゝめず

6. hyaku-ri-no · kugati / tomari sadame-zu
a hundred leagues of land, / stopping place unfixed

Ki

歌枕 瘧 落 たる きの、け、

7. uta-makura¹ / okori oti-taru / kinoo-kyoo Ki
place famous for poetry; / malaria fever come down / yesterday, today

山 田 の 小 田 の 早 稲 を刈る 比

8. yama-da-no o-da-no / wase-wo karu koro Bu
mountain ricefields' little fields' / early rice being harvested

夕 月 に 後 れ て 渡 る 四 十 雀

9. yuu-duki-ni / okure-te wataru / sizyuugara Ki
than the evening moon / later they cross, / tit birds

秋 を う れ 亡 て ひとり 戸 に 倚 る

10. aki-wo urei-te / hitori to-ni yoru Bu
feeling the Autumn grievous / alone lean on the door

目 ふ、た い で 苦 き 薬 を す り け る

11. me hutai-de / nigaki kusuri-wo / susuri-keru Ki
close the eyes, / bitter medicine / sipped

當 麻 に もどす 風呂 敷 に 文

12. Taima-ni modosuru / hurosiki-ni humi Bu
To Taima² return / the cloth wrapping, with a letter

1 uta-makura: various places in Japan where poets composed poetry about, later poets and haizins¹ tried to visit such places and again compose. It also means books which contain poetry on such places.

2 Taima: place in Nara, Kita Katuragi-gun, where there is a famous temple, Taima-dera, which is both Shin'gon¹ and Zyoodoo (Amida) schools. Presently called Zen'rin'-ji. Main image is Maitreya Bodhisattva, and the famous treasure is the Taima mandala made by Tyuuzuyoo-Hime, a princess. She wove a mandala of Sukhavati out of the threads of 100 horse-loads of lotus flowers.

隣にて まだ声のある 油うり

13. tonari ni-te / mada koe-no suru / abura-uri Ki
next-door / still voices sound, / oil seller

三尺 つもる 雪の たそかれ

14. san'-zyaku tumoru / yuki-no tasogare Bu
three feet pile up, / snow's dusk

飢にうゆる 狼 うちにしのぶらん

15. e-ni uyuru / ookami uti-ni / sinoburan' Ki
starved of food / the wolf near houses / would hide

兎唇の 妻の たゞ泣 になし

16. iguti-no tuma-no / tada naki-ni naku Bu
the harelip wife / just keeps on crying

鐘 鐙ある 花の みてうに 髪 きて

17. kanei aru / hana-no mi-tera-ni / kami kiri-te Ki
where there is a bell being cast, at the flowery temple /
the hair shaved

春の ゆく 衛の 西に かたふく

18. haru-no yukue-no / nisi-ni katabuku Bu
Spring's destination, / to the west it slants

能登どのの 弦音 かすむ 遠かたに

19. Noto-dono-no / turu oto kasumu / too-kata-ni Bu
the governor of Noto's / bowstring sound misted / in a distant direction

1 Taira-no Noritune, famous for his skill at the bow and arrow. At the battle of Dan'-no ura against the Minamoto general Yositune, when the Taira were losing, he fought till the end, and to avoid his head being taken, he jumped into the sea with his brother and drowned.

博士ひそみ 時を占る、

20. hakase hisomi-te / toki-wo uranau Ki
the expert quieting down, / divines the time

粟負し馬倒れぬと鳥啼て

21. awa oi-si / uma taore-nu-to / tori naki-te Bu 3
"the carried-the-millet / horse has fallen!" / birds are singing

櫟咲散る田畀 八町

22. ooti saki-tiru / nawate hat-tyoo Ki
the sandalwood¹ tree blooms and scatters / between-ricefields path 87 meters

立あへぬ 虹に浅間¹のうちけ り

23. tati-ae-nu / nizi-ni Asama-no / uti-keburu Bu
not quite able to rise / rainbow--with it Asama² /
smoked over

勅使の御宿申うれしき

24. tyokusi-no o-yado / moosu uresi-sa Ki
the imperial messenger's honourable inn / to provide, what gladness

江に獲たる 簀の魚の腹赤き

25. koo-ni e-taru / azika-no uo-no / hara akaki Bu
in the bay obtained / bamboo basket's fish / bellies red⁴

1 ooti is an old name for sen'dan', the sandalwood tree. Its flowers bloom in the lunar 5th month, and are pale lavender.

2 a mountain in Sinano province, last active in 1783.

3 a disciple of Confucius, 公冶長 (Kooyatyoo Kungyehchang) is being referred to. He knew when people would die by listening to birds' talk.

4 hara-aka, red bellied, is the name of a kind of trout.

- 日はさしながら 又 あられ 降
 26. hi-wa sasi-nagara / mata arare huru Ki
 while the sun shines / again, hail falls

- 見し戀の 兒 ぬり出よ 堂供養
 27. mi-si koi-no / tigo neri-ide-yo / doo-kuyoo Bu
 the seen beloved's / children-- let them parade, /
 service for a new pavilion

- つぶりに さはる 人にくき世
 28. tuburi-ni sawaru / hito nikuki nari Ki
 the brush-the-hairdo / person, detestable

- 十六夜の 暗きひまさへ 世のいそぎ
 29. izayoi-no / kuraki hima-sae / yo-no isogi Bu
 8th month 16th day's / darkness intervals even, /
 the world's busyness

- しころ 打なる 番場 松本
 30. sikoro utu-naru / Ban'ba Matumoto Ki
 the pestle¹ strikes, / Ban'ba's Matumoto²

- 駕 舁の 棒組 足らぬ 秋の雨
 31. kago-kaki-no / boo-gumi tara-nu / aki-no ame Ki
 the palanquin bearers' / members insufficient, / autumn rain

- 鳶も 鴉も あちらむき居る
 32. tobi-mo karasu-mo / atira-muki-iru Bu
 both kite and crow / are facing that way

¹ the pestle of the kinuta or fulling block on which washed cloth is ironed out.

² Ban'ba in Siga prefecture, Sakata-gun, Yonehara-tyoo. Matumoti is now called Ootu.

祟なす 田中の小社 神さびて

33. tatari nasu / tanaka-no syoosya / kami sabi-te Ki
the cause-misfortune / field-midst small shrine, /
its god lofty

既 玄番が 公事も負色

- 34. sude-ni gen'ba-ga / kuzi-mo make-iro Bu
already the official's / lawsuit looks a loss

花にうとき身に旅籠屋の飯と汁

35. hana-ni utoki / mi-ni hatagoya-no / mesi-to siru Bu
from flowers distant / body, for it a cheap inn's /
rice and soup

また 暮やらぬ 春のとし 火

36. mada kure-yara-nu / haru-no tomosibi Ki
not yet come to dusk, / Spring's lamp

KONO HOTORI (1773)¹
ONE NIGHT'S FOUR KASEN': 1.

薄見つ 萩や なからん 此邊り

1. Susuki mi-tu / hagi-ya nakaran' / kono hotori Buson' 蕪村
Pampas grass in view; / bush clover there must be / these environs.

風より 起る 秋の夕に

2. kaze-yori okoru / aki-no yuube-ni Tyora 栞良
from wind arisen, / on such an Autumn dusk

舟たへて 宿とるのみの二日月

3. hune tae-te / yado toru-nomi-no / hutuka-duki Kitoo 几董
no more boats, / only to find a lodging; / second day moon.

紀行の模様 一步一變

4. Kikoo-no moyoo / ip-po ip-pen' Ran'san' 嵐山
the travel diary's style, / one step one change.

貫えか娘 おさなき頃なれや

5. Turayuki-ga/ musume osanaki / koro nare ya Tyora
Turayuki's² / daughter-- her youthful / time, is it

半蔀 おもく 雨のふれれは

6. hazitomi omoku / ame-no hurere-ba Buson'
the lattice shade³ heavy / as rain falls

1 This collection is made of 4 kasen' made on the occasion of Buson, Tyora, Kitoo visiting the ailing Ran'san' in Kyoto.

2 The poet Turayuki wrote a famous diary, Tosa Nikki, in which he tells of the death of his young daughter.

3 Made of thin pieces of wood crossed in squares like a lattice, this style of shade was used against sun and rain above and across the room; later used outside carriages as well.

さよ更へ弓弦鳴せる御なやみ

7. sayo huke-te / yuduru naraseru / on'-nayami Ran'san'
the night grows late; / a bow-string made to sound,¹ /
honourable sickness.

我もいそじの春秋をしる

8. ware-mo isozi-no / syun'zyuu-wo siru Kitoo
I, too, fifty / Springs and Autumns have known

汝にも 頭巾着せうぞ古火桶

9. nan'zi-ni-mo / duki' ki-syoo-zo / huru-hioke Buson'
On you, too, / let's put a hood; / old brazier

愛せし蓮は枯てあとなき

10. aise-si hasu-wa / kare-te ato naki Tyora
the beloved lotus² / withered without a trace

小鳥来てやよ 鶯のなつかしき

11. ko-tori ki-te / yayo uguisu-no / natukasi-ki Kitoo
little birds coming, / oh, the bush warbler / one yearns for

さかつきさせは 逃る縣女

12. sakaduki sase-ba / niguru agatame Ran'san'
a wine cup offered, / she shies away, farmer's girl

若き身の 常陸介に補せられて

13. waka-ki mi-no / Hitati-no-suke-ni / ho-serare-te Buson'
though young, / as a Hitati official³ / he was chosen

1 an old ceremony for an imperial illness, to stretch the string of a bow and make it vibrate. This was believed to chase away evil spirits.

2 reference to a Sung Confucian philosopher Chou Tun-i, author of Diagram of the Supreme Ultimate, who compared a princely person's virtues to a lotus.

3 Hitati is the old name for the present Ibaraki prefecture. Hitati-nosuke is an assistant to the governor.

八重のさくらの落花一片

14. yae-no sakura-no / rakka ip-pen' Kitoo
the double cherry's / fallen flower, one petal

矢を負し男鹿来て伏す霞む夜に

15. ya-wo oi-si / wo-zika ki-te husu / kasumu yo-ni Tyora
a wounded-by-arrows / stag comes and lies down, / in the misty night

春もおくある月の山寺

16. haru-mo oku aru / tuki-no yama-dera Buson'
Spring, too, has its depth, / moon's mountain temple

大瓶の酒はいつしか酢になりぬ

17. oo-game-no / sake-wa itu-si-ka / su-to nari-nu Kitoo
the giant jug's / rice wine--when did it / turn to vinegar

五尺の劔打おふせたり

18. go-syaku-no turugi / uti-oose-tari Tyora
the five-foot sword / was lifted up¹

瀬仲の多田の移徙日和よき

19. Man'dyuu-no / Tada-no watamasi / hiyori yoki Buson'
Man'dyuu's² / moving to Tada, / good weather

若葉が末に沖の白雲

20. waka-ba-ga sue-ni / oki-no sira-kumo Kitoo
by young-leaf treetops / offshore's white clouds

¹ probably a sword-maker lifting the blade up to inspect.

² Man'dyuu is Minamoto-no Mitunaka (912-997), famous general. He retired to Tada (now in Hyogo prefecture) and was known as Tada Man'dyuu.

松か枝は 藤の紫 咲のこり

21. matu-ga e-wa / huzi-no murasaki / saki-nokori Tyora
on pine branches, / wisteria's purple / remaining blossoms

念佛申て 死ぬばかり也

22. nebutu moosi-te / sinu-bakari nari Buson'
Having said nen'butu, / there's left only to die

我山に 御幸のむかし (のはれて

23. waga yama-ni / go-koo-no mukasi / sinobare-te Kitoo
On our mountain / an imperial procession of the past /
remembered fondly

逃たる 鶴の 待どかへらず

24. nige-taru turu-no / mate-do kaera-zu Tyora
run-away crane,¹ / waited for but it doesn't return

銭なくて 壁上に詩を題しけり

25. zeni naku-te / hekizyoo-ni si-wo / dai si-keri Buson'
without money, / on a wall the Chinese poem / written down²

灯を持出づる 女麗し

26. hi-wo moti-iduru / onna uruwasi Kitoo
she brings a lamp out, / the maid beautiful

黒髪に ちらちら かかる 夜の雪

27. kuro-kami-ni / tiratira kakaru / yoru-no yuki Tyora
black hair / it scatters on, / night's snow

1 reference to Lin' Ho Tsing 林和靖 of the Northern Sung, who was a retired princely person who kept cranes.

2 too poor to buy paper, as in Po Chu'i's line,

石上題詩 払緑苔

on boulder-top write poem, brush away green moss

うたへに負けて 所領 追るる

28. utae-ni make-te / syoryoo owaruru Buson'
the lawsuit lost, / territories given over¹

日やけ田も ことしは 稲の 立 伸し

29. hi-yake ta-mo / kotosi-wa ine-no / tati-nobi-si Kitoo
on parched ricefields, too, / this year rice plants / rose and lengthened

祭の膳 を 並べたる 月

30. maturi-no zen'-wo / narabe-taru tuki Tyora
festival dinner trays / lined up under the moon

小商人 秋うれしさに 飛歩き

31. ko-akin'do / aki uresi-sa-ni / tobi-aruki Buson'
little merchant; / in Autumn's gladness / he gaily goes

相傘せうと 姪に たはれて

32. ai-gasa syoo-to / uba-ni taware-te Kitoo
"let's go under one umbrella",² / joking with aunt

いにしへも 今も かけらぬ 戀 種や

33. inisie-mo / ima-mo kawara-nu / koi-gusa-ya Tyora
both ancient days / and now, no change-- / love's grasses³

1 a reference to a practise of the Kamakura period.

2 the term ai-gasa means an umbrella shared by lovers.

3 the luxuriance of love feelings is compared to the thick growth of grasses.

何物語も秘めて見せさる

34. nani monogatari-zo / hime-te mise-zaru Buson'
what story is it! ¹ / kept secret, she doesn't show it

象潟の花おもひやる夕間暮

35. Kisagata-no / hana omoi-yaru / yuu-magure Ran'san'
Kisagata's ² / cherry flowers come to mind, / dusk time

朧に志賀の山ほときす

36. oboro-ni Siga-no / yama hototogisu Kitoo
in the haziness Siga's / mountain hototogisu

1 probably a love story, from the previous ku

2 the present Akita prefecture, Kisagata is on its south-western seashore, and is where Saigyoo made a well-known poem on cherry flowers:

象潟の桜は浪に埋もれて

Kisagata-no / sakura-wa nami-ni / udumore-te
Kisagata's / cherry flowers, in waves / buried,
花の上へく あまの釣舟
hana-no ue kogu / ama-no turi-bune
on the flowers they row, / the fisher-boats.

3 The place being referred to here seems to be where the emperor Ten'ti (ruled c. 662-71) had a palace, now north of Ootu city by Lake Biwa.